

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7716

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, EMES, NU

SUBJECT: UDEL LEADER DIES SUDDENLY

1. SUMMARY: THE SUDDEN DEATH OF UDEL'S SECRETARY GENERAL MANUEL MORALES LEAVES A BIG HOLE IN UDEL HIGH COMMAND AND CLOUDS FUTURE OF SOCIAL CHRISTIAN COOPERATION WITH OTHER OPPOSITION CURRENTS.

2. MANUEL MORALES PERALTA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY AND, PRIOR TO HIS DEATH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL) DIED SUDDENLY OF A HEART ATTACK AT 35 IN MANAGUA IN THE EARLY MORNING OF AUGUST 10. CLASSES AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICAN WHERE MORALES HELD PROFESSORSHIPS WERE SUSPENDED FOR TWO DAYS IN MOURNING AND A HUGE CROWD OF YOUTHS AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PERSONALITIES ATTENDED BURIAL RITES ON AUGUST 11.

3. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING MORALES' DEATH MAY CAUSE THE GON SOME PROBLEM WITH THE HOSPITAL WORKERS WHOSE CTN UNION MORALES ADVISED. THE MILITANT UNION, WHICH IS NEARING A SHOWDOWN WITH THE GON ON ITS CONTRACT, IS REPORTEDLY OUTRAGED THAT MORALES FELL ILL BEFORE ONE HOSPITAL, WHICH THOUGH INAUGURATED TWO MONTHS AGO BY

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PRESIDENT AND MRS. SOMOZA, STILL OFFERS ONLY SEVERELY

LIMITED SERVICES; AND WAS DENIED ASSISTANCE BY PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL AT TWO OTHER GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS DESPITE THE PLEADINGS OF NURSES' AIDES AND ORDERLIES. THE NURSES' AIDES HAVE ALREADY CIRCULATED A LETTER DEMANDING MORE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATION OF PATIENTS BY STAFF DOCTORS AND THE OUSTER OF TH PERSONNEL ON DUTY DURING THE MORALES INCIDENT.

4. COMMENT: MORALES WAS THE LEADING SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (PSC) ADVOCATE OF FULL SCALE COOPERATION IN THE UDEL COALITION WHICH, IN ADDITION TO SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, INCLUDES COMMUNISTS AND DISSIDENT LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES. HE HAD BECOME ONE OF THE MOST INTIMATE AND VALUED POLITICAL ASSOCIATES OF UDEL LEADER PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HIS LOSS NOT ONLY LEAVES A LARGE HOLE IN THE UDEL HIGH COMMAND, BUT ALSO CLOUDS FURTHER PSC PARTICIPATION IN UDEL SINCE MORALES HAD FOUGHT SUCCESSFULLY FOR OPPOSITION COOPERATION AGAINST THE EXCLUSIVIST WING IN THE PSC HEADED BY EDUARDO RIVAS GASTEAZORO.

5. DEPT. PLEASE INFORM FSOS JAMES CHEEK (NEA) AND RONALD GODARD (FSI) OF MORALES' DEATH AND THAT CONDOLENCES CAN BE SENT TO YOLANDA ESTELA VDA DE MORALES, DE CABRERA 3 CUADRAS AL SUR, MEDIA ABAJO, MANAGUA. THEBERGE

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